

VERDI VOICE

Giuseppe Verdi Lodge #315

Buon Compleanno

Barbara Wixon 4/2
Anthony Scalora 4/6
Micheal Bonelli 4/9
Angelo Cisternino 4/21
Betty Williams 4/21
Kevin Mink 4/23

Happy Anniversary

Maria & Paul Donnini 4/14
David & Michele Whiteside 4/17
Julie & Louis Rojas 4/17
Cathy & Nat Pecci 4/22
Julie & Brian McGurl 4/26
Scott & Terri Wyatt 4/26
Rebecca & Jim Marchetti 4/29

In Our Prayers

*May you be wrapped up in God's love.
Found deep in his everlasting wings.
Carried and kept, safe and cherished.
May the healing power of Christ
breathe across your being now. Amen.*

- ✦ Linwood (Junny) Skyes
- ✦ Joe Aprile



President's Message

Ciao Amici!

Although the 2024 New Year began in January, Verdi's New Year began in March with the Installation of its new Officers. I cannot express how thankful I am to the members who have volunteered to hold a position on the Council and not only the Council but those who volunteered to help and chair committees. It's hard to believe just 9 years ago we celebrated our 100th anniversary. This local lodge of a National organization has come a long way and grown and my wish is that it will continue, not only as a brother/sisterhood of Italians but an organization that works to help our local community and charities. This can only happen as the older members get tired and are no longer able to do what they have in the past and the younger more energetic members step up and want to fulfill new roles.

As we enjoy this new year with family and friends, work, sports and vacations, I hope you all consider coming out to a few of our monthly meetings and sharing time with the brothers and sisters of our heritage.

God Bless you all,
Mary Louise
President



Cast of the Murder Mystery Dinner

Past Events

Murder Mystery Dinner

On February 24th, GVL hosted its first ever Murder Mystery Dinner. It was a great success and we had over 40 people attend. The meal was delicious and a fun time was had by all!

Popcorn & A Movie

A few members got together at Regal Cinema and enjoyed watching CABRINI, a powerful drama about the life of Italian immigrant Francesca Cabrini.

Upcoming Meetings

May 5th

June 2nd

July 7th

August 4th

September 8th

October 6th

November 3rd

December 8th

Upcoming Events

Homemade Bake Auction

In the month of **May** we will host a Homemade Bake Auction. This is always a great fundraiser for our Lodge. Please reach out to Virginia Bowe if you are interested in donating a baked goodie.

Cooking Teams

Please review the list below as we have several months with openings for family and friends to join together and prepare your favorite dish.

April - John Howarth

May - Arthur Smith

June - OPEN

July - Cook-out

August - OPEN

September - OPEN

October - OPEN

November - OPEN

December - GVL Officer's

Please reach out to Virginia Bowe (virginia_bowe@comcast.net) to let her know what baked goodie you will be donating and which month you would like to prepare a meal for the Lodge.



Murder Mystery Dinner 2/24/24



Cabrini movie watching crew



Questions

- ◆ About how many chocolate bunnies are sold each year?
- ◆ In the 13th century, the church prohibited eating what during Holy Week?
- ◆ The world record largest chocolate Easter egg was made in what city?
- ◆ How many jellybeans do Americans consume each Easter?

Answers will be next issue of the Verdi Voice. Stay tuned!

Newsletter Submissions

Have an article, event, pictures or other information you'd like to share with your fellow GVL members? Please email Lisa Hall (hall547201@gmail.com) **by 15th of each month** so we can ensure your article is included in the next newsletter.

Fun & Games!

POKENO

Some of the members decided to remain at the lodge and enjoy a little "fun" time playing a few games of POKENO.

Pokeno is just like bingo except you use playing cards instead of numbered balls. The dealer places five ranks of five squares across the board for a total of 25 squares. With another deck of cards at hand, cards are turned over one at a time and each player who has a board with that playing card pictured places a poker chip or other marking device over the square. The first player to get five squares in a row is the winner.

Hoping as the days are longer, more members will be willing to hang around to enjoy fellowship playing Pokeno or other card games and enjoying a few games of Bocce as the weather warms.





Leadership

Officers 2024 - 2025

- President: Mary Louise Smith
- Vice President: Jerry Scaglione
- Recording Secretary: Norma Marrin
- Financial Secretary: Arthur Smith
- Treasurer: Jean Whiteside
- Orator: Linwood (Junny) Sykes, Jr.
- Mistress of Ceremony: Bea Sykes
- Guard: Joseph Betzala

Board of Trustees

- Mike Bonelli (Chair)
- MaryAnn DeVincentis
- Mike Matassa
- Dexter Oliver
- Anne Marie Vaughan

Board of Directors

- David Whiteside (Chair)
- Andrew Biondi (Vice-Chair)
- Mike Bonelli
- Freddy Corritone
- Aldo Funai
- Jay Gragnani
- Tony Grappone
- Joe McGowan
- JoAnn Miles
- Pete Poli
- Arthur Smith
- Linwood (Junny) Sykes

Board of Directors

March/April 2024
(Submitted by Arthur Smith)

The Board of Directors met on March 5th. Thanks to Andrew Biondi for setting up a Microsoft Team meeting, giving us the opportunity to utilize the Wi-Fi at the Lodge and to meet in the comfort of our homes. In addition to meeting on-line, we were able to cast the computer image on our TV in the back room where some of the BOD's met.

The first order of business was to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair. David Whiteside is elected Chair and Andrew Biondi is Vice-Chair. Numerous potential projects were discussed. More information on this will be made available as it becomes available. In addition, there are annual maintenance items that were assigned to BOD's.

Committees for grass cutting were approved (see below). We ask that all members capable of assisting these committees to PLEASE contact them to volunteer.

- ✦ March/Sept: Andrew Biondi / Mike Bonelli
- ✦ April/Oct: Arthur Smith / JoAnn Miles
- ✦ May /Nov: Pete Poli / Jay Gragnani
- ✦ June/Dec.: David Whiteside / Freddy Corritone
- ✦ July/Jan: Tony Grappone / Aldo Funai
- ✦ August/Feb.: Joe McGowan / Arthur Smith

Spring workdays were set, April 27th and May 4th (rain date). A list of items will be sent prior to these dates for those who may have conflicts and can perform one of the tasks before these dates.

Now as the "past chair" of the BOD, I wish to thank everyone who has assisted in keeping our lodge maintained and clean. I will continue as a BOD and support David, Andrew and all the other members of the board and lodge. I'm looking forward to 2024 and beyond. THANKS!

GVL Board of Directors 2024

Andrew Biondi, Vice-Chairman	804-783-7265	abiondi@sandsanderson.com
Mike Bonelli	804-243-0624	mbonelli55@gmail.com
Freddy Corritone	804-217-7169	freddycorritone@aol.com
Aldo Funai	804-744-1945	afunai@verizon.net
Jay Gragnani	804-339-3178	gragnanijm@gmail.com
Tony Grappone	804-730-1114	grappie@verizon.net
Joe McGowan	703-593-7866	nickshouse@verizon.net
JoAnn Miles	804-683-2926	milesauto@aol.com
Pete Poli	804-305-9969	peter.poli@yahoo.com
Arthur Smith	804-357-3428	arthur.l.smith@comcast.net
Junny Sykes	804-357-1750	lsykes36@verizon.net
David Whiteside, Chairman	804-651-7172	hokie_vt@yahoo.com

Italian Easter Traditions

PASQUA, EASTER IN ITALY



In Italy, Easter is known as Pasqua. It is the second most important religious holiday in Italy, after Christmas. For Italian Catholics, it is a day to commemorate the women of the sepulcher who were comforted by an angel when they returned to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty.

In 325 CE, the Nicean Council determined that Easter was to fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring Equinox.

La Settimana Santa (“The Holy Week”) begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter. Most

Italian celebrations of leading up to Easter take place over three days: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (from the Latin triduum).

Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus and the Apostles. Holy Friday, the day of Christ’s death, is remembered. In Italy, a mass is held at three in the afternoon (traditionally believed to be the time of Christ’s death). During this mass, the Passion of the Christ is celebrated. Holy Saturday brings a moment of silence: Mass is conducted without a music or choir. During these three days, processions are held in towns across Italy, with parade participants dressed in ancient costumes.

The religious rituals of Easter Triduum are celebrated on Easter Sunday, known in Italy as Pasqua. Across Italy, towns and villages have different feasts, celebrations, and exhibitions. A mass is also held.

Traditions vary in different cities and towns. For example, Florence celebrates Easter with the Scoppio del Carro, an explosion of a cart. A wagon is dragged through Florence by white oxen until it reaches the historic Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore. At the end of Mass, the Archbishop sends a rocket into the cart, igniting all of the fireworks for an extraordinary display.